

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-17 and 19-22 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 21 have been amended here. In addition, claims 23 and 24 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-2, 4-17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,185) in view of Farnworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,329,829) and Hidekatsu (JP 10-197557). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 1 as amended recites, "third contacts, arranged in a pattern, disposed on a second surface of the support structure, the second surface opposite to the first surface, wherein the third contacts are electrically connected to the first contacts through conductors in the support structure." Applicant respectfully submits that the references of record do not teach or suggest the limitations of Claim 1.

Unlike in the present application, in Farnworth, the electrical connection to a test equipment is achieved by contacting the lateral pads on the top of an interconnect, on the same side as the die. '185 Patent, col. 4, l. 45-50. As a result, Farnworth does not teach or suggest third contacts that are electrically connected to first contacts through conductors in a support structure. '185 Patent Fig. 2. These differences between the subject matter in the present application and the referenced prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would not have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the applicable art. Claim 1 is therefore allowable over the references of record.

Claims 2 and 4-8 depend from Claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding further limitations.

Claim 9, as amended herein, specifically recites providing a carrier that includes third contacts, arranged in a pattern, disposed on a surface of the support structure opposite to the surface of the support structure on which the first contacts are present. The third contacts are electrically connected to the first contacts through conductors in the support structure. The claim further requires "evaluating the semiconductor die be electrically coupling the contacts of the die to a tester through the third connects." It is respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable over the references of record.

As discussed above, neither Farnsworth references teaches or suggests electrically connecting a tester with a semiconductor die through contacts on a bottom surface of a support structure. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 9 is allowable over the references of record.

Claim 10-17 and 19-20 depend from claim 9 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependant claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnsworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,559,444) in view of Farnsworth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,329,829) and Farnworth et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,185). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 21, as amended, specifically recites "third contacts, arranged in a pattern, disposed on a second surface of the support structure, the second surface opposite to the first surface, wherein the third contact are electrically connected to the first contacts through conductors in the support structure." It is respectfully submitted that the references of record do not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 21.

Claim 22 depends from Claim 21 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that this dependent claim is allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding additional limitations.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicant's attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date

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